

15% of all produce sold is organic.¹

Produce accounts for **43%** of all organic food sold.²

In the last decade, the organic food market annual sales have grown from \$23 billion to

\$61 billion.³

In 2020, almost **6%** of the food sold in the U.S. was certified organic.⁴

Organic non-food products are a fast growing market, too.



We interviewed individuals working in organic farming about how they define organic and what it represents to them.



"Organic means healing the planet."

Craig McNamara, Farmer and Owner of Sierra Orchards



"Organic means knowing your farmer... It's important to make a connection with people growing your food and having communities that are economically viable to buy from those farms."

Yousef Buzayan, Farm to Cafeteria Program Manager, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)

ORGANIC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) DEFINITION OF ORGANIC

Organic is a labeling term found on products that have been produced using cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that support the cycling of on-farm resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.

ORGANIC STANDARDS

To be organically certified, farms must be verified by a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Regulations include the following:



Cover Cropping
Mulching
Building Soil Quality
Increasing Farm Diversity



Synthetic
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
GMOs

CATEGORIES OF ORGANIC LABELLING

100% Organic

entirely made from organic ingredients

Organic

at least **95%** organic ingredients

Made with Organic

at least **70%** organic ingredients

Organic Ingredients

less than **70%** organic ingredients



Products can't use the organic seal

The National Organic Program (NOP) regulates production, handling, labeling and enforcement of USDA organic products with input from NOSB and the public.



THE **EDIBLE**
SCHOOLYARD
PROJECT

TIMELINE OF ORGANIC REGULATION IN THE U.S.

1973

Oregon passed the first state law regulating organic food.

1990

Congress passed the Organic Food Protection Act (OFPA) that established marketing and production standards and facilitated interstate commerce of organically produced fresh and processed food.

1992

USDA established National Organic Program (NOP) and appoints National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

2002

National Organic Standards become law after years of development.

"Organic agriculture is a system. It's a way of being—dynamic, non-linear, messy, and philosophical."



Wendy Johnson, Teacher, Farmer, and Founder of Green Gulch Farm

"The word means old ways... [We must honor] the agricultural knowledge held within Indigenous, African, and Latinx communities."



Matthew Raiford, Chef, Farmer, Co-owner of Gilliard Farms

<https://edibleschoolyard.org/resource/infographic-organic>

Infographic compiled by Raquel Vigil and designed by Grace Stees.